Report of High Level Committee on NRI

†3869. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in receipt of the report of the Committee on NRI constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Lakshmimal Singhvi;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether Government have considered the same; and

(d) if so, by when the recommendations are likely to be implemented by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee has, *inter-alia*, recommended (i) Celebration of 9th January every year as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (ii) Institution of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award and (iii) Revision of the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Card Scheme. All these three recommendations have been accepted.

Among the Committee's other main recommendations are grant of dual citizenship to foreign citizens of Indian descent residing in certain countries, engaging Indian Diaspora in the fields of Culture, Economic Development, Education, Health, Media, Tourism, Science & Technology, Philanthropy etc. in order to enhance their connectivity with India. They have also recommended improvement of facilities at the airports and ways to address problems of overseas Indian Labour etc. These recommendations are presently under examination of the concerned Departments/Organisations.

(d) The recommendations, which are found acceptable will be implemented as soon as their examination is completed by the concerned Deptts./Organisations.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.